

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-65. Cancelled.

66. (New) A system for providing peripheral awareness of a source of information of interest, comprising:

- a shareable ticket that refers to the information of interest;
- a first viewer for generating a thumbnail that dynamically changes as the information of interest referred to by the shareable ticket changes;
- a second viewer for generating a summary view of the information of interest referred to by the shareable ticket when the thumbnail is selected;
- a third viewer for generating a detailed view of the information of interest referred to by the shareable ticket when the summary view is selected;
- and
- a sidebar window that can host viewers, each viewer adhering to a predefined interface and specialized for a source of information of interest, wherein the sidebar window is not coverable by other application windows.

67. (New) The system of claim 66 further comprising using a service for automatically and dynamically tracking a current state of the information of interest.

68. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the displayed thumbnail dynamically displays the current state of the information of interest on the display device.

69. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the sidebar window is resizable and wherein the viewers hosted in the sidebar window are automatically resized after resizing the sidebar window.

70. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein a viewer is a multi-viewer capable of displaying information from more than one source of information of interest.

71. (New) The system of claim 70 wherein the multi-viewer is selectable to display individual viewers for each source of information of interest.

72. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the ticket can be shared by sending the ticket as an email attachment.

73. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the ticket can be shared by saving the ticket to a computer-readable medium.

74. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the ticket can be obtained by dragging and dropping the ticket from a web page to the sidebar window.

75. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein a ticket dropped onto the sidebar is automatically paired with a compatible viewer, and wherein the information referred to by the dropped ticket is automatically displayed as a thumbnail within the sidebar window.

76. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the information of interest is a contact.

77. (New) The system of claim 76 wherein the thumbnail provides a graphical indication of an availability status of the contact.

78. (New) The system of claim 76 wherein the second viewer displays a person window in response to selecting a thumbnail representing the contact.

79. (New) The system of claim 78 wherein the person window provides communication availability status of the contact via a communication channel.

80. (New) The system of claim 79 further comprising a user interface for initiating communications via at least one of the communication channels.

81. (New) The system of claim 78 wherein the person window provides a representation of a historical availability of the contact.

82. (New) The system of claim 66 further comprising a capability to arrange thumbnails within the sidebar window.

83. (New) The system of claim 82 wherein the thumbnails are arranged automatically.

84. (New) The system of claim 82 wherein the thumbnails are arranged via a user interface.

85. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the thumbnail displays additional information when the size of the thumbnail is increased.

86. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the thumbnail displays less information when the size of the thumbnail is decreased.

87. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the ticket is automatically created by dragging and dropping any electronic file onto a sidebar window such that the ticket refers to the electronic file.

88. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the ticket is represented by an XML data structure.

89. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the ticket further includes a visibility flag, and wherein the thumbnail is displayed when the visibility flag is set for the associated ticket.

90. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the thumbnail is automatically displayed at a predetermined time in response to a scheduled event.

91. (New) A method of providing peripheral awareness of a source of information of interest, comprising:

creating a shareable ticket that refers to the information of interest;

assigning a first viewer to the ticket for generating a thumbnail that dynamically changes as the information of interest referred to by the shareable ticket changes;

assigning a second viewer to the ticket for generating a view of the information of interest referred to by the shareable ticket when the thumbnail is selected; and

displaying a sidebar window that can host viewers, each viewer adhering to a predefined interface and specialized for a source of information of interest,

wherein the sidebar window is not coverable by other application windows.

92. (New) The method of claim 91 wherein the ticket contains a pointer to each of the viewers assigned to the ticket.

93. (New) The method of claim 91 wherein the ticket contains a pointer to a service used to interact with the information of interest referred to by the ticket.

94. (New) The method of claim 93 wherein the service is an email server.
95. (New) The method of claim 93 wherein the service is an instant messaging service.
94. (New) The method of claim 93 wherein the service is an email server.
96. (New) The method of claim 91 wherein the thumbnail generated by the first viewer contains textual information.
97. (New) The method of claim 91 wherein the thumbnail generated by the first viewer contains audible information.
98. (New) The method of claim 91 wherein the thumbnail generated by the first viewer contains graphical information.